Use of Radio and Mobile Network by Maoists in Uttarakhand

†1727. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Maoist organizations are using most modern communication facilities in Pithoragarh, Udham Singh Nagar areas in India and by raising local issues in these areas, they are utilizing radio broadcasts and mobile network to operate and increase their activities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian communication system is very weak in these areas, and there is no radio centre and mobile telephone service facility available for the broadcast of local language in these areas; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps to be taken for radio broadcasts and expansion of mobile service in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) There is no information to indicate the Maoist Organisations are using the most modern communication facilities in parts of Uttarakhand to expand their activities.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Presently, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based cellular mobile service of BSNL is working satisfactorily in Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar districts in Uttarakhand.

As regard All India Radio, 6 Radio Stations are working in Uttarakhand *i.e.* Almora, Uttarkashi, Pauri Garwal, Pithoragarh, Gopeshwar and Mussourie. Regional News Unit is also working in Dehradun. Radio Stations at Almora and Pauri are transmitting local language programme. Other stations are relaying various programme of All India Radio. In Uttarakhand 52.80% by area and 77.37% by population covered by primary grade radio signal. SW signal and DTH signals are also available in Uttarakhand. Further steps to expand the radio broadcasts in Uttarakhand under 11th Five Year Plan are yet to be finalized.

Monitoring Mechanism for Television Content

1728. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to develop a nationwide television content monitoring mechanism, the Government is considering appointment of district-level "monitoring committees" on the broadcasting content are major issues related to the broadcast sector was discussed in the two-day Conference of State and UT Minister of Information and Cinematography;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the conference held;

(c) whether there was a unanimity on the broadcasting legislation; and

(d) if so, what are the steps being taken to involve State Governments in monitoring committees?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An order for constitution of District Level Content Monitoring Committee was issued on 6.9.2005 as per decision taken in 25th State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON) held in New Delhi. So far 17 States/UTs have constituted the District Level Monitoring Committees.

In the 26th SIMCON held in New Delhi on 18-19 September 2007, various States, *inter alia,* supported the idea of having a regulatory mechanism as proposed in the Draft Broadcasting Bill available on the website of this Ministry www.mib.nic.in.